

Wolters Field Advisory Group Meeting
Wednesday, October 13, 2004
Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions

Meeting was started at 7:00 PM. Brigid Ohlwein, Kevin Fassett, Jeanne Carter, Jim Gaylord, Carolynne Weisenthal, Jeff Annenberg, Mary Anderson, Larry Silberman, Barry Bolek, Sergeant Chris O'Neill and John Grundke were all present. Introductions were made.

II. Contacts

Contact information was collected.

III. Parking

Residents in the Brooke Estates complex asked if they could receive the parking stickers to differentiate between guests of Brook Estates residents and people attending Highland Park High School activities at Wolters Field.

Other ideas were discussed to help keep unauthorized traffic out of the Brook Estates property.

Mary Anderson informed the school district that only city employees can post signage on city streets due to liability issues. The high school will have signs made and delivered to the city prior to the football season in the fall of 2005.

Barry Bolek proposed a change to keep the buses at Wolters Field due to the incredible cost of moving buses to Highland Park High School and the added sound.

There was a discussion about the use of the Highland Park Country Club parking lot for lighted events. Sergeant Chris O'Neill explained the problems and safety concerns if people were to use this lot and be forced to walk across Park Avenue West in the dark. The school will provide signs for the police to post to help them keep people out of these parking lots during football games.

IV. Barricades

The system that was designed by the school district was well received. Many neighbors commented on how well the barricades kept out most of the people who were unauthorized to park in the neighborhoods.

There were discussions about how neighbors can help the police if unauthorized cars are found on their streets. Sergeant Chris O'Neill stated that a simple call

to the police station would bring a police representative to take care of the problem car.

V. Traffic

There were concerns with the drop off procedures on Park Avenue West after the first night football game. Alterations were made to the drop off area in which cars can pull into the middle Wolters Field driveway and safely let pedestrians out of their cars. After dropping off the pedestrians safely, they can pull back onto Park Avenue West. With the help of the police and school officials, this new system helped alleviate many of the safety concerns regarding drop offs.

There were some complaints about the turn restrictions on Beverley and Sunset for 20 minutes following the conclusion of the football games. For the safety of the police officers and to protect the neighborhood, the no turn policy will remain in effect as is.

VI. Noise Concerns

The general consensus was that the new public address system reduced much of the noise that previously overflowed into the neighborhood. The new configuration of speakers helps maintain a high quality of sound in the stadium without excessive noise.

One concern that was raised was the use of air horns by spectators. The school district will not allow air horns to be used during the 2005 fall football season.

VII. Landscaping

There were concerns from the neighbors that live directly adjacent to the Wolters Field property about how the proposed landscaping plan would disrupt their property and their own landscaping. A meeting was scheduled on November 6, 2004 to look at the site and discuss further options that would benefit everyone involved. That group will report back to the Wolters Field Advisory Group at the February 3 meeting. Larry King will be involved in further planning.

VIII. Future Meeting Dates

Two dates were set for our next two Wolters Field Advisory Group meetings. The next meeting will be February 3, 2005 at 7:00 PM. The end of the year meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2005 also at 7:00 PM.

IX. Other

There were concerns about garbage retrieval which was very good for the most part. Questions were raised about allowing glass receptacles into the Wolters Field area. No glass products are allowed on school grounds.

There were discussions about the realignment of the lights. The lights specialist from Musco came out and measured the light readings. They are aimed properly and the light levels are acceptable in accordance with the special use permit.

Committee members were thanked for their invaluable input and their help in making Wolters Field a great place for both Highland Park students and all of our neighbors.